

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07 /080 W
-----141825Z 003371 /62

R 141405Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5292
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY PORT
COMNAVBASE GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2429

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JM, US, CU
SUBJECT: JAMAICA REPORTEDLY SPONSORS RESOLUTION DEMANDING U.S.
QUIT BASES IN PANAMA, GUANTANAMO BAY

1. ONE OF OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES HAS TOLD US THAT AT THE
MAY 4-9 "MEETING OF YOUNG COMMONWEALTH LEADERS" HELD IN
OCHO RIOS, THE JAMAICA DELEGATION SPONSORED A RESOLUTION
CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES TO CLOSE ITS BASES AT GUAN-
TANAMO BAY AND IN PANAMA. OUR SOURCE STATED THAT THE FINAL
DAY OF THE MEETING WAS CHARACTERIZED BY VAST CONFUSION,
AND HE DOES NOT KNOW YET THE FINAL FORM WHICH THE RESOLUTION
TOOK.

2. THE JAMAICA DELEGATION TO THE MEETING WAS LED BY
MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS, HUGH SMALL, AND IN-
CLUDED AMONG OTHERS SENATOR PAUL MILLER, PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY FOR CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN THE MINISTRY
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OF JUSTICE, SENATOR SEFTON JOHNSON, PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY IN SMALL'S MINISTRY, SENATOR DAWN LINDO,
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS IN THE
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TONY RUTHERFORD, DIRECTOR OF THE
YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION OF THE SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. (THE COMMISSION IS A FORCING BED
FOR LEFTISTS IN JAMAICA.) ALL OF THOSE NAMED ABOVE

ARE IDENTIFIED WITH THE RADICAL WING IN JAMAICA'S
RULING PEOPLES NATIONAL PARTY.

3. COMMENT: THE RESOLUTION OFFERS AN INTERESTING
CONTRAST TO THE QUERY OF LABOR MINISTER WILLIAM ISAACS
MADE DURING HIS VISIT TO THE NAVAL BASE AT GUANTANAMO
BAY FEBRUARY 16-17 TO MEET JAMAICAN WORKERS. ON THAT
OCCASION, ISAACS INQUIRED ABOUT FATE OF JAMAICAN LABOR
FORCE AS RESULT OF POSSIBLE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS
WITH CUBA. BUT HIS QUESTION WAS NOT PREDICATED ON
AN ASSUMPTION THAT THE BASE WOULD CLOSE. RATHER, HE
WANTED TO KNOW IF JAMAICANS WOULD BE FIRED TO MAKE
ROOM FOR CUBANS. HE SAID IT WOULD BE VERY HARD FOR
HIS MINISTRY TO FIND WORK FOR 700-ODD JAMAICAN
WORKERS WHO HAD DEVELOPED A TASTE FOR MORE GENEROUS
PAY SCALES AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT LIFE AT THE
NAVAL BASE OFFERED THEM.
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